(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) has five manufacturing units one each located at Rishikesh (Uttar Pradesh), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Gurgaon (Haryana), Madras (Tamil Nadu) and Muzaffarpur (Bihar). The company has been incurring losses since 1965-66 except for a period of 5 years from 1974-75 to 1978-79. In compliance with the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, as amended in December, 1991, the Company was referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The BIFR formally declared IDPL as sick on the 12th August, 1992.

(b) The revival plan for the company has been approved by the BIFR. The revival plan, which is for a period of 10 years, has been put into operation from the Ist April, 1994.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Loss of fertiliser output due to closure and shut-down of fertilizer plant

1352. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of loss of fertilizer output because of the closure and shut-down of fertilizer plants in the public sector;

(b) the volume of fertilizers imported during the same year to compensate, for the shortage of domestic production and the consequent expenditure of foreign exchange, in rupees as well as in dollars; and

(c) the estimated cost if, instead of importing, this volume of fertilizers were produced at home by Hindustan Fertilizers Limited and other such public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: (a) and (b) The details of cumulative target of production of public sector plants, actual production and imports alongwith the value of the import of fertilizers during the last 3 years (1991—94) are given below:

(lakh tonnes)

	Production Targets	Actual Production*	Import	Value of imports (On Govt. account)
Nitrogen . . .	96.90	89.90	32.76	US $ 179.00 crores (Rs. 4543.86 crores)
Phosphate . . .	20.80	18.90	23.93	
Potash	..	..	31.38	

* Part of the production loss against the target was due to prolonged shutdown of some of the plants on account of various reasons. Further, Gorakhpur plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited remained closed during the entire period of last three years. This further resulted in a loss of about 2.23 lakh MTs of Nitrogen. The entire requirement of Potash is imported as the country does not have known and exploitable reserves of potash.

(c) The main shortfall in the production of nitrogenous fertilizers was in respect of the operating units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., (HFC), which are loss making companies and have been declared sick by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Keeping in view the present health of the various units of these two companies, the shortfall could not have been made up by additional production in these units without substantial investment of funds in these units for their upgradation. This would have further pushed up their cost of production, much above the price at which urea was generally imported. Moreover, their enhanced production would not have been of the order of imports during the last three years.

In the case of phosphatic fertilizers, the imports would have been required in any case as the indigenous installed capacity is not enough to cater to the entire demand of the country. Moreover, the imported phosphatic fertilizers have been generally cheaper compared to the average cost of production in the country.

Alternative to fertilizer subsidy

1353. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the alternatives to fertilizer subsidy being worked out by Government as announced by the Prime Minister in Kakinada; and

(b) whether the proposed alternative will help the growth of fertilizer industry and supply of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) No proposal with regard to any alternative to fertilizer subsidy is under consideration of the Government.

Withdrawal of fertilizers subsidy

1354. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to withdraw fertilizer subsidy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

उर्वरक की कम खपत

1355 **श्री आस मोहम्मद :**

श्री कनकसिंह मोहन सिंह मंगरोला :

क्या **रसायन और उर्वरक** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हमारे देश में उर्वरक की खपत दूसरे देशों में उर्वरक की खपत से बहुत कम है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने कारणों की समीक्षा करके इस संबंध में कोई उपाय निकाला है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?